

forming a porous silicon oxide layer on the surface sensitive silicon oxide layer by thermal chemical vapor deposition, wherein said porous silicon oxide layer is deposited at a temperature of about 400°C or less.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the porous silicon oxide layer has a carbon content of at least 5 atomic percent.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the porous silicon oxide layer has a dielectric constant of between about 2.9 and 3.2.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the surface sensitive silicon oxide layer is deposited from a plasma enhanced CVD reaction of TEOS and oxygen.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the porous silicon oxide layer is deposited from a process gas comprising TEOS and ozone.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein a molar ratio of said TEOS to ozone is between about 10:1 and 20:1.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising forming a capping silicon oxide layer over the porous silicon oxide layer.

8. The process of claim 1 wherein said porous silicon oxide layer is deposited using an SACVD process at a pressure of between 100-700 Torr.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said surface sensitive and porous silicon oxide layers are deposited in an in situ process.

10. A method for depositing an intermetal dielectric film over a plurality of conductive lines, the method comprising:

depositing a plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition (CVD) silicon oxide layer over the plurality of conductive lines from a plasma of tetraethyloxysilane (TEOS) and oxygen; and

depositing a silicon oxide layer over the plasma enhanced CVD silicon oxide layer by a thermal CVD process from a gas mixture of a TEOS and ozone wherein said thermal silicon oxide layer has a dielectric constant of about 3.2 or less and a carbon content of at least about 5 atomic percent.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the density of said thermal silicon oxide layer is less than or equal to about 1.7 g/cm^3 . $\leq 1,700,000 \text{ g/cm}^3$

12. The method of claim 10 further comprising depositing a plasma enhanced CVD silicon oxide capping layer over the thermal silicon oxide layer.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the dielectric constant of said thermal silicon oxide layer is greater than or equal to about 2.9.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein a molar ratio of said TEOS and ozone used to deposit said thermal silicon oxide layer is at least 8:1.

15. The method of claim 6 wherein said molar ratio is at least about 11.5:1.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein said molar ratio is between about 10:1 and 20:1.

17. The method of claim 10 wherein said oxygen is provided from a flow of molecular oxygen.

18. The method of claim 10 wherein said plasma enhanced and thermal CVD silicon oxide layers are deposited in an in situ process.

19. The process of claim 10 wherein said porous silicon oxide layer is deposited using an SACVD process at a pressure of between 100-700 Torr.

20. RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Applicants have elected to prosecute claims 1-19 and withdrawn claim 20 from consideration pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claim 10 has been amended to correct a minor informality. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1-19

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jang (6,022,802).